LIDA Data Scientist Development Programme Recruitment FAQs

Positions being recruited: LIDA Data Scientists x9

Start date of positions: 26th Sept 2022

Length of fixed term positions: 12 months, full time (35 hrs a week)

Salary: Grade 5, sp 20 £25,627 pa

Closing date for applications: Sunday 29th May 2022

Interviews: will be held remotely on 15th, 16th and 17th June 2022

International candidates are encouraged to apply and may be eligible for a skilled worker visa for these posts. Career changers are also welcomed.

LIDA is committed to supporting the University's [Equality and Inclusion Framework](#) and particularly encourages applications from groups currently under-represented on the Programme and within LIDA. These include women; Black; Asian; Minority Ethnic (BAME); and disabled candidates. One post out of the total 9 is reserved for BAME candidates only, at the request of the funder, the [ESRC Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre](#), as part of the funder's commitment to increasing opportunities for BAME candidates in the field of data science.

- **What is the LIDA Data Scientist Development Programme and how is it structured?**

The LIDA Data Scientist Development Programme was started in 2016 as a capacity building initiative to bridge the gap between graduates and career changers looking to upskill in data science and the rapidly expanding opportunities for skilled data scientists in the workforce.

This is an annual Programme, with Data Scientists employed on 12-month, full-time, fixed-term contracts, during which they complete two consecutive 6-month data science projects. Successful candidates are employed by the University of Leeds as [Leeds Institute for Data Analytics (LIDA)](#) staff members, though their project supervisors and team members may be drawn from across various University schools and faculties. One of the advantages of this LIDA Development Programme is that it gives academics from different schools and disciplines the opportunity to work together and thus promotes interdisciplinary innovation through collaboration.

LIDA typically recruits between 10-15 Data Scientists on the Programme each academic year (September-September) to complete two projects tackling a real-world problem using real data. Projects have a lead supervisor, who acts as principal investigator and line manager to the Data Scientist, as well as co-investigator(s) and an external partner (see next question for more on external partners).

Data Scientists commence their contract with a rigorous week-long induction of training; meeting LIDA researchers; talks from LIDA partners and knowledge exchange with LIDA intern alumni and LIDA staff.

For more information on the Programme, and to see the profiles and backgrounds of the current cohort of Data Scientists and the kinds of projects on which they are working, please visit the LIDA website [here](#).

- **What external partners have collaborated on the Data Scientist Development Programme and on what kinds of projects?**

Since its inception in 2016, the Programme has fostered collaborations with a diverse range of LIDA partners including fashion brand [Burberry](#), gaming industry partner [Improbable Worlds](#), [Leeds City Council](#), the [United Nations and World Trade Organisation](#), [NHS Teaching Hospital Trusts](#), local police forces as part of the [N8 Police Research Partnership and Safer Leeds](#), and smart cities alliance [Connected Places Catapult](#).

Projects typically align with the themes of Health Data Analytics, Urban Analytics, and Consumer Data Analytics. Details of previous Programme projects can be read [here](#), and details of current projects can be read [here](#).

The partnership line-up for the 2022-23 Programme projects on which successful applicants will be working includes: Leeds City Council, the Consumer Data Research Centre, the ONS Data Science Campus, ai Corporation, the Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre, Bradford Council, Department for Education, a major food delivery franchise, a high street retailer, the Institute of Grocery Distribution, and the Copenhagen Business School.

Each Data Scientist will broadly be expected to:

- Undertake quantitative analysis on core datasets;
- Plan and manage their own research activity in collaboration with the project investigators and other members of the research team;
- Meet with external partners where relevant to the project, in support of LIDA's partnership-building activities;
- Actively participate in LIDA research meetings, events and seminars;
- Generate outputs, including research papers, data products, case studies, presentations and other materials for publication.

- **What subject backgrounds are we looking for on the Programme?**

You will be a graduate (Bachelor's, Master's or PhD) with excellent numerical skills that may have been gained in the context of quantitative social science, computing, mathematics/statistics, medical bioinformatics or population studies.

Previous LIDA Data Scientists have come from Bachelor's, Master's and PhDs in the fields of Geography, GIS, Bioinformatics, Fluid Dynamics, Consumer Analytics, Health Data Analytics, Psychology, Sociology, Mathematics, Political Sciences, Engineering and Computing.

- **Is the Data Scientist contract start date flexible?**

No. Owing to the fact that LIDA Data Scientists are recruited as a cohort, who undertake their training and projects together to the same schedule of work, these posts have a <u>fixed start date</u> of 26th September 2022 and end date of 25th September 2023.

- **Can I undertake this role whilst also studying full time or part time?**

No, as this staff role is full time (35 hrs per week) for the duration of the fixed-term 12-month contract. You will be a full time employee of the Leeds Institute for Data Analytics (LIDA) at the University of Leeds for the duration of your contract.

- **Given the 'new normal' of hybrid working, what work model will the Programme follow?**

These are roles which support hybrid working. The successful candidates will be able to hot desk at the LIDA offices (located on campus in the Worsley Building) as well as remote working.

Certain events and meetings will be planned to take place on campus, therefore all successfully appointed Data Scientists will be located in or near Leeds, or be willing to relocate to Leeds, for the duration of their contract in order to be able to work from the office on relevant occasions.

- **Can candidates from outside of the UK apply?**

Yes. The Programme welcomes applications from those outside of the UK. Please bear in mind that you will need to show proof of right to work in the UK in order to be able to be appointed to the Programme, or you may be eligible for a skilled worker visa. If you meet the requirements for a skilled worker visa, the University would sponsor your visa application.

Please be aware that the UK Government requires skilled worker visa costs to be paid upfront by the candidate, but once in post you would be able to reclaim these costs from the University. You can find out more about the skilled worker visa application process on the Gov.UK website.

- **What does the application process look like, and how can I find out the status of my application?**

Once your application has been submitted online via the Stonefish recruitment system, it will be reviewed by the shortlisting panel and you will be notified of the progress of your application – whether it has been successful or not – via Stonefish.

Please log in and check the status of your application online in order to check progress. Note that decisions on whether your application has been shortlisted or not will only be made **after** the closing date for these vacancies on 29th May 2022. Please allow up to four weeks after this date to hear about the final outcome of your application.

Interviews for these roles will take place online on 15th, 16th and 17th June and you will be expected to be available on one of these dates. If invited for interview, you will be sent full joining instructions as well as information on how you should prepare.

- **What does a day in the life of a LIDA Data Scientist look like?**

If you're wondering what kinds of work LIDA Data Scientists are involved in, please read the personal viewpoints from current and previous Programme recruits below:
N.B. For the avoidance of confusion, please note that this used to be called the Data Scientist Internship Programme and the programme recruits were referred to as interns. The Programme has been rebranded this year to reflect the high calibre of work produced by its enrolees.

Ann's [Data Scientist Experience](#)
Greta's perspective on [Networking & Partnership Building](#)
Ifeanyi's [Role Models & What brought him to LIDA](#)
Simon's approach to [Hybrid Working, the New Normal?](#)
Sam's [Beginner's masterclass on NLP and Text Analysis](#)
George and Stuart's [tracking of people's mobility under lockdown](#)
Alex and Tom's work on Free School Meals [Nationally](#) and [for the Bradford area](#)
Holly's [Viewpoint on Track and Trace apps under Covid-19](#)
Natalie's [Intern life, the Pandemic and Everything](#)
Vijay's [Thoughts on the LIDA Internship Programme](#)
Holly's [Improving lives through Big Data](#)
Claire's [Attending the Women in Data conference](#)
Francisco's [An introduction to the LIDA internship](#)
Luke's [Secondment to SoCal](#)
Kevin's [Day in the Life](#)
Alex's [Life as a Data Scientist Intern](#)

- **What kind of training and research dissemination opportunities are provided on the Programme?**

Each Data Scientist benefits from a training, travel and subsistence budget per 6-month project which is exclusively for their use. It is expected that Data Scientists work with their project supervisors to identify relevant and useful training courses and conferences to attend, which will not only be applicable to their project, but also to their wider development in the field of data science. Data Scientists and supervisors are encouraged to proactively seek out conference opportunities for them to attend and present papers at.

Data Scientists are provided with public speaking and presentation training to equip them in delivering research presentations. Appointees will have the opportunity to present on the progress of their projects at key points throughout the Programme through the [LIDA Seminar Series,](#) as well as at conferences relevant to their project's disciplinary field.

- **How will this Programme and role help me develop a career in data science and analysis?**

The LIDA Data Scientist Development Programme was founded in 2016 because LIDA recognised the growing and unprecedented demand for skilled data scientists within industry, where demand far outstripped the supply of qualified data scientists. This Programme focuses on developing emerging data science talent and bridging the gap between data analytics in academia and industry.

Previous LIDA Data Scientists have gone on to work in industry organisations such as The Oakland Group, The Data City, ai Corporation, MIAC Analytics, Covance and The Floow. Others have gone on to work in data science in the public sector at NHS Digital, DWP, ONS and local Councils. Some decided to stay in academia to become research software engineers at academic institutes, and to pursue PhDs in data science and analytics. You can read some of our current and former Data Scientists' testimonials on the Programme on our website [here.](#)

One former Data Scientist currently completing her PhD at LIDA, Natacha Chenevoy, won an international award in 2018 (at the recommendation of the Lancashire Police Constabulary) for her work on the project [investigating hate crime by looking at police incident report and Twitter data.](#)

Key People on the LIDA Data Scientist Development Programme

Programme Director and LIDA Director of Research & Innovation: Prof Alex Frangi

Programme Academic Advisory Group Co-chairs: Assoc. Prof Michelle Morris & Prof Nick Malleson

LIDA Development Programme Academic Advisory Group (LIPAG)

Programme Co-ordinator: Kylie Norman, k.r.norman@leeds.ac.uk

Programme Admin Assistant: Karen Fletcher, k.mendes@leeds.ac.uk

Partnerships Lead: Paul Evans (LIDA Research & Innovation Development Manager), P.D.Evans@leeds.ac.uk